

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Gauge Conversion

2038. DR. M. JAGANNATH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the length of Railway lines between Castle Rock and Vasco-De-Gama in South Central Railway proposed to be converted into broad gauge;

(b) the funds sanctioned for the above conversion; and

(c) the time by which the above conversion is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) 87 kms.

(b) Rs.86 crores have been provided in 1996-97.

(c) The work will be completed by 31.3.97.

[English]

Child Labour

2039. SHRI NAMDEO DIWATHE:
SHRI R. SAMBASIVA RAO:
SHRI BHAKTA CHARAN DAS:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether a meeting of State Ministers was held recently at New Delhi to review the implementation of ban on Child Labour;

(b) if so, the details of the agenda discussed and major decisions taken;

(c) the details of targets set up for implementation of ban in each State for the current year;

(d) the details of the welfare/rehabilitation schemes formulated by the State Governments for the benefit of children, State-wise; and

(e) the results achieved thereunder?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) to (c) A conference of States/UTs Labour Ministers was convened on 22.1.97 to finalise a concrete action plan for the implementation of the directions of Supreme Court on withdrawal and rehabilitation of working children. It was decided that in the first phase survey may be carried out by the State Governments to identify children working in all establishments in urban and semi urban areas and hazardous occupations in rural areas. In the event of any child labour being found employed in any such process, simultaneous action would be taken to recover an amount of Rs.20,000/- from

offending employer. The survey is required to be completed by 10.6.97.

(d) and (e) National Child Labour Projects have been set up in the child labour endemic states for the rehabilitation of children working in hazardous occupations. So far 76 child labour projects have been set up for the rehabilitation of around 1.5 lakh children. These child labour projects are located in the States of Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Gujarat, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Orissa, Rajasthan, Tamilnadu, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal. As per the available information, around 1.05 lakh children are already enrolled in the special schools under these projects.

[Translation]

Modernisation of Airports and Aviation Facilities

2040. SHRI RAMESHWAR PATIDAR: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the details of projects launched by the Government for the modernisation of airports and aviation facilities in Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh during the last three years;

(b) whether the work of these projects is being done as per prescribed schedule; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM): (a) The details of the projects launched in Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh are as under:

1. Madhya Pradesh

1. Bhopal:

(A) Extension/modification of terminal building;

(B) Resurfacing of runway and associated pavements;

2. Raipur:

(A) Extension/modification of terminal building;

(B) Strengthening of runway and associated pavements;

3. Indore:

(A) Extension/modification of terminal building;

(B) Strengthening/modification of runway and apron;

(C) Construction of Technical Block cum Control Tower;

4. Jabalpur:

(A) Strengthening and extension of runway for B-737 operations;

II. Uttar Pradesh:**1. Agra:**

(A) Extension/modification of terminal building

(B) Apron Extension;

2. Lucknow:

(A) Extension/modification of terminal building;

(B) Resurfacing of runway and truning pad;

(C) Construction of Boundary Wall;

3. Kanpur:

(A) Construction of boundary wall;

(b) and (c) The projects are on schedule.

Introduction of New Passenger Train between Ayodhya and New Delhi

2041. SHRI VINAY KATIYAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether keeping in view the international importance of Ayodhya in Uttar Pradesh the Government propose to introduce a new passenger train between Ayodhya and New Delhi via Kanpur;

(b) if so, the time by which it is likely to be introduced; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) There is no such proposal at present;

(b) Does not arise;

(c) Operational and resource constraints.

Concessions to Journalists

2042. DR. G.R. SARODE:

SHRI S.P. JAISWAL:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any concession is given to accredited card holder journalists in rail fare;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the journalists of Maharashtra are deprived of this facility;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether the district level journalists can also avail the concession in rail fare; and

(f) if so, the details therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) and (b) As per the existing provisions, Press Correspondents accredited to the Headquarters of Government of India and State Governments/Union Territories, residing within 25 Kms. of the concerned Capital, are issued rail travel coupons at 25% concession in First Class and 50% concession in Second/Sleeper Class for travel upto 2500 Kms. per month on bonafide professional work.

(c) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(e) and (f) It has been decided to extend concessional travel facility to District level Press Correspondents also.

[Translation]

Gauge Conversion

2043. DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is fact that gauge conversion work is being carried out between Neemach and Ratlam on the Ratlam-Ajmer division of Western Railway;

(b) whether certain bridges have been widened and roads have also been extended at several places during the course of this work;

(c) whether the gauge conversion work of this route was scheduled to be completed during 1995-96, but due to lack of funds this work is being delayed and the citizens, industrialists and public representatives of this area have requested the Government to provide the necessary funds; and

(d) if so, the time by which the remaining work is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) and (d) No, Sir. The work is targeted for completion in IX Plan Period.

[English]

ESI Hospitals

2044. SHRI K.C. KONDAIAH: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the number of new ESI hospitals proposed to be opened in the country, State-wise; and

(b) the amount proposed to be provided in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI M. ARUNA-CHALAM): (a) A statement showing State-wise position of ESI Hospitals under construction is enclosed;

(b) Rs.10,246.87 lakh.